

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 22 (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) An abrasion and massage apparatus for use on a patient, the apparatus comprising:

means for delivering and retrieving material to and from a selected site to be abraded;

a delivery and retrieval hand piece, coupled to the delivery and retrieval means, the delivery and retrieval hand piece comprising:

means for generating an area of negative pressure along a dermal surface of the patient;

means for applying positive pressure to the patient's skin that is undergoing the negative pressure; and

means for moving the area of negative pressure along the surface of the patient while continuing to apply the positive pressure; and

an abrasive handling device, coupled to the hand piece, comprising:

an abrasive supply device;

a receiving channel, coupled to the supply device;

a feeding chamber, coupled to the receiving channel;

a delivery channel, coupled to the feeding chamber and the hand piece;

and

a waste retrieval holding device, coupled to the hand piece, to collect and store the abrasive and waste debris after treatment.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the delivery and retrieval means comprises a vacuum generator that generates a vacuum for drawing the abrasive through the apparatus, and wherein the means for generating the area of negative pressure comprises the vacuum generator and a head defining a cavity and having a rim, the head being coupled to the hand piece.

25. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the abrasive supply device gravity feeds the abrasive to the feeding chamber.

26. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the receiving channel extends within the feeding chamber sufficient enough to control the amount of abrasive filling the feeding chamber.

27. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the feeding chamber comprises a top, a bottom, and generally inwardly sloped walls from the top to the bottom.

28. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 27 wherein the abrasive supply device comprises generally inwardly sloping walls with an opening at the bottom coupled to the receiving channel.

29. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the delivery channel connects to an inverted generally funnel-shaped collector channel used to receive abrasive within the feeding chamber and direct it to the delivery channel.

30. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the material retrieval holding device comprises a filter.

31. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the hand piece comprises a supply aperture and a return aperture.

91 32. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the hand piece comprises a removable tip that has an aperture that contact the surface to be abraded.

33. (Currently Amended) A dermal abrasion and massage apparatus ~~An abrasive handling and massaging device for use in an abrasion apparatus~~, comprising:

a vacuum generator configured for use in dermal abrasion and massage of a patient, the vacuum generator coupled to:

a feeding chamber that has a generally funnel-shaped portion that receives
an abrasive for use in the dermal abrasion;

a receiving channel that limits the amount of abrasive supplied to the
feeding chamber;

an intake aperture, connected to a base of the feeding chamber to receive means for displacing the abrasive in a substantially vertical direction; and

a delivery channel, placed above the feeding chamber to receive the displaced abrasive; and

a head that defines a cavity and an opening to the cavity, wherein the head is coupled to the vacuum generator to create a negative pressure within the cavity and includes a first contact surface to the patient; and

a post coupled to the head and positioned within the cavity, the post being static relative to the head during massage and having a second contact surface to the patient.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus according to claim 33 further comprising a generally funnel-shaped supply device, positioned above the feeding chamber and connected to the receiving channel.

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus according to claim 34 further comprising an abrading material holding container removably fitted with a funnel that fits within the supply device.

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus according to claim 33 wherein the ~~device~~ apparatus is pneumatically driven.

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus according to claim 33 wherein the funnel-shape of the lofting chamber forms an arc ranging approximately 40 degrees to 90 degrees.

38. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus according to claim 33 wherein the funnel-shape of the feeding chamber forms an arc of generally 60 degrees.

a | 39. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus according to claim 36 further comprising an airflow regulator, coupled to the delivery channel, to regulate the flow of the abrasive during operation.

40. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus according to claim 33 wherein the delivery channel comprises an inverted funnel-shaped opening within the feeding chamber.

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus according to claim 33 further comprising a transition chamber disposed between the supply device and the feeding chamber.

42. (Currently Amended) A dermabrasion and massage apparatus comprising:
a vacuum generator;

a massage head defining a cavity and coupled to the vacuum generator, wherein
the massage head in combination with the vacuum generator is configured
to provide an effleurage-like massage;

a delivery and retrieval hand piece coupled to the vacuum generator;

a dermabrasive handling device, coupled to the hand piece, comprising:

a dermabrasive supply device;

a receiving channel, coupled to the supply device;

a feeding chamber, coupled to the receiving channel;

a delivery channel, coupled to the feeding chamber and the hand piece;

and

a waste debris receiving device, coupled to the hand piece and to the vacuum
generator, to collect and store waste debris and the dermabrasive after
treatment.

43. (Currently Amended) A dermabrasion hand piece for use in a
dermabrasion and massage system to deliver and retrieve an abrasive to and from a site to
be abraded during a ~~dermabrasion~~ procedure, the hand piece comprising:

a body having a first end, a second end, a delivery channel, a retrieval channel,
the delivery channel being concentric with the retrieval channel and
extending the length of the body, a delivery aperture, communicatively
coupled to the first end and the delivery channel, and a retrieval aperture,

communicatively coupled to the first end and the retrieval channel and concentric with the delivery aperture; and

a dermabrasion tip having a first end, which removably mounts to the first end of the body, a second end, a delivery aperture in the second end that is communicatively coupled with the body delivery aperture and the body retrieval aperture.

9/ 44. (Original) The hand piece according to claim 43 wherein the delivery channel includes an intake aperture and the retrieval channel includes an outlet aperture, both intake and outlet apertures positioned at the second end of the body with the intake aperture concentric with the delivery channel and the outlet aperture offset from the intake aperture.

45. (Currently Amended) The hand piece according to claim 44 wherein the ~~removable~~ tip is generally dome-shaped.

46. (Original) The hand piece according to claim 44 wherein the delivery channel comprises a hollow tube coupled between the first and second ends of the body.

47. (Original) The hand piece according to claim 46 wherein the hollow tube is removable.

48. (Original) The hand piece according to claim 47 wherein the body comprises a middle portion and an end portion removably connected to the middle portion.

49. (Original) The hand piece according to claim 44 further comprising a nozzle placed at the first end of the body adjacent the delivery aperture with an opening through which the abrasive passes.

50. (Original) The hand piece according to claim 44 further comprising a nose tube, concentric with the delivery channel and removably attached to the first end of the body.

51. (Original) The hand piece according to claim 44 further comprising an O-ring mounted on the first end of the body.

52. (Currently Amended) A waste debris collection and massage device for use in a dermabrasion and massage system, the device comprising:

a vacuum generator coupled to a head having a cavity, wherein the vacuum generator is configured to collect the waste debris and to provide a negative pressure that is used in providing the massage;

a waste can receiver coupled to the head having an intake port and a return port;

a waste canister removably coupled to the waste can receiver at an open end of the waste canister; and

a filter disposed between waste can receiver and the waste can such that the intake port passes through the filter and the filter prevents waste debris from exiting the waste canister through the return port.

53. (Original) The waste debris collection device according to claim 52 further comprising a filter frame used to support and retain the filter in position between the waste can receiver and the waste canister and having an aperture through which the intake port passes.

54. (Original) The waste debris collection device according to claim 52 wherein the filter has an area substantially the same as the opening of the waste canister.

55. (Original) The waste debris collection device according to claim 52 further comprising pliable retention prongs to secure the filter between the waste canister and the waste canister receiver to prevent air-bleeding at the filter location.

56. (Original) The waste debris collection system according to claim 53 wherein the filter is removable.

57. (Original) The waste debris collection system according to claim 53 wherein the waste canister further comprises a removable lid to seal the waste canister upon removal from the waste can receiver.

58. (Original) The waste debris collection system according to claim 53 wherein the filter comprises a fabric having pores sufficiently small enough to prevent ~~the~~ abrasive and collected waste debris from passing therethrough.

59. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for selectively performing dermabrasion or massaging, comprising:

means for generating negative pressure;

a massage device, coupled to the generating means, comprising:

a massage head;

a handle, coupled to the massage ~~had~~ and the generating means; and

a dermabrasion device, coupled to and operable by the generating means,

comprising:

a delivery and retrieval hand piece;

a dermabrasive handling device, coupled to the hand piece; and,

a waste debris receiving device, coupled to the hand piece, to collect and store waste debris and the dermabrasive after treatment.

60. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 59 wherein the dermabrasive handling device gravity feeds the dermabrading material to the feeding chamber.

61. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 59 wherein the receiving channel extends within the feeding chamber a sufficient distance to control the amount of dermabrasive entering the feeding chamber.

62. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 59 wherein the feeding chamber comprises a generally funnel shaped chamber in which the dermabrasive is lofted during operation.

63. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 62 wherein the dermabrasive supply device comprises a generally funnel-shaped holder with an opening at a bottom tip of the holder to feed the receiving channel.

64. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 59 wherein the delivery channel connects to an inverted generally funnel-shaped collector channel to receive the dermabrasive within the feeding chamber and direct it to the delivery channel.

65. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 59 wherein the material retrieval holding device comprises a filter.

66. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 59 wherein the hand piece comprises a delivery aperture a retrieval aperture.

67. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 59 wherein the hand piece comprises a replaceable tip unit that has an opening.

68. (Currently Amended) The apparatus claimed in claim 59 wherein the massage head further comprises one or more substantially flat contact surfaces to enable an effleurage-like massage.

69. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 59 wherein the massage head further comprises a rim and the rim has a substantially flat contact surface that enables a substantially air tight seal and enables an effleurage-like massage.

70. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 59 wherein the means for creating negative pressure within the cavity is a vacuum source and wherein the head further comprises an orifice, the orifice communicating with the vacuum source.

71. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a skin surface comprising:
using a massage device to perform ,~~performing~~ a deep tissue massage on a patient across a section of the skin; and
using a dermabrasion device to perform ,~~performing~~ a dermabrasion treatment across the section of the skin.

72. (Original) The method for treating a skin surface according to claim 71 wherein the deep tissue massage performing step comprises:

generating an area of negative pressure on the skin surface, the area of negative pressure defined by a perimeter of positive pressure;
applying a second positive pressure radially interior to the perimeter;

moving the area of negative pressure defined by the positive pressure perimeter along the surface of the skin while continuing to apply the second positive pressure in the area under negative pressure.

73. (Original) The method for treating a skin surface according to claim 71 wherein the dermabrasion treatment step comprises:

generating an area of negative pressure on the skin, the area of negative pressure defined by a perimeter of positive pressure;

drawing dermabrasive material within the area of negative pressure on the skin to cause the dermabrasive material to abrade the skin surface; and

using the negative pressure to remove the dermabrasive material and abraded skin debris to a refuse container.

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